

# **Rocky Mountain Regional Council Board of Directors Meeting**

## **Minutes—May 2, 2024, 6 PM, via ZOOM**

Host: Church of the Holy Family ECC Facilitator – Jane, Scribe Anne Grant

Attendees: Kae, Alice, Michael, Tom, Chuck, Rosean, Don, Liz, Greg, Dennis, Jane, Anne

### **Opening Prayer/Regional Prayer**

Holy One,  
Enlivening Spirit,  
In the wilderness of new,  
Root the body of Christ  
Fully into our “Yes”  
Blooming in your Holy Season.  
Together, Amen!

### **Regular Business**

#### **1. Welcome Visitors**

- No visitors

#### **2. Agenda approval/additions**

- Add Bishop’s Report to Regular Business

#### **3. Review and approval of April notes**

- Should notes be very detailed or synopsis of actions/decisions made by BOD?
- Keep notes concise with a view to publishing them on the regional website
- April notes are approved as revised by Michael

#### **4. Financial report**

- Presented and approved by the RMR BOD

#### **5. Bishop’s Report**

- Clergy Ethics/Safety Training/Continuing Education – Kae monitors for completion; abiding by National ECC requirements
- Discussion on how RMR BOD Secretary stores documents entrusted to her; Rosean stated that she stored documents on her personal computer. Where can these documents be stored so that they are more accessible to the RMR BOD? Also need to take security considerations into account.

#### **6. Vicar’s report**

- Mailing address for CCC has changed
- Nancy Newton, Chair of Synod Music Team, is visiting Colorado, 13 – 19 June. Will need volunteers to help with music at Synod. Michael invited her to the 15 June delegate meeting. Nancy’s husband will be helping Tom with tech/media/etc at the Synod.
- Low participation in antisemitism webinar on 16 April.

## **7. Leadership Council Report**

- No updates; Leadership Council does not meet until next week.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Updates** on support or lack thereof, for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. – Jane

- Jane had conversations with Trish Vanni and Bishop Pablo.
- Bishop Pablo plans to attend the next T&R Commission meeting on 4 May.
- Synod – still working out how to represent what ECC communities are doing with respect to T&R. Fr. Michael – there will be tables at the Synod, where attendees can learn more about efforts related to T&R.
- 1619 Project – no updates.
- Michael suggested adding T&R Commission statements/photos/etc to the Advocacy pages on the regional website.
- Jane asked that Michael send website viewership stats for the regional website to Jane for discussion at the 4 May meeting.

### **2. Holy Synod** Oct 11-14, 2024 planning and support

- Reflections on April delegate meeting, planning for June 15 meeting.
- The April meeting went really well; good to have an in-person meeting.
- Next meeting will be on 15 June; are there any proposals for legislation?
- Is the RMR ECC a social justice region? Needs further thought, prayer, and discussion.
- Follow up on Synod scholarships – received two applications. Decision to say yes to both applications. Are all of the regional delegates aware of scholarships? Will make sure that all regional delegates are aware of scholarships.
- Add scholarship discussion to agenda for June meeting.

### **3. Follow up on Pentecost (ish) ECC offering**

- Kae is suggesting the Pentecost ECC offering, not requiring.

### **4. RMRC Picnic Planning**

- Dennis and Alice are still searching for a venue to hold the picnic.
- Bear Creek Lake has large shelters, but it would be a drive for everyone.
- Should we consider having the picnic at one of the churches, so there is the option to move inside if the weather is not good.
- Food – each family brings one main dish plus a side dish; bring their own paper products, utensils.
- Jane and Linda will work on prayers.
- Proposed Time: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

### **5. Accountability Calendar** – Nothing shown for May. No update.

### **6. Discussion** regarding Aaron Bailey presentation

- Don encouraged the St. Paul community to look at national and regional websites. Liz was impressed with the “mission statement” on the Light of Christ website. Liz will follow up with Aaron.

- How can we adapt this approach as a region? Newcomers will most likely choose a community that is geographically closest to them.
- Discussion about whether BOD should reach out to Aaron to ask if he can provide services on a broader scale to the region.
- LOC started by sending Aaron a letter with an outline of what the community was proposing and then met with Aaron and came up with a proposal for the way forward.

#### **7. Further discussion** on Fr. Michael’s Response to “On Human Dignity”?

- Posted on the website, as well as comments and related information. Still needs tweaking.

#### **New Business**

- Caffeinated Church – Michael
  - Sent an email about the upcoming national conference.
  - Information is posted on the conference website.
  - Does the region want to send Michael as the RMR ECC representative?
  - Special rates for groups; scholarships for small communities.
- Zoom AI for taking meeting notes – Don will look into this possibility.

#### **Community Updates**

- Michael and Don are now co-pastors at St. Paul.
- St. Paul is baptizing Rosalia on Pentecost Sunday.
- Mary of Magdala was busy with baptism, upcoming marriage ceremony, and celebrations of life.
- Church of the Beloved will have upcoming confirmations of youth; lost a longstanding member of the community.
- Light of Christ had a rough month in April - lost several members. Planning to celebrate Fr. Teri’s completion of her doctorate.

#### **Closing Prayer** - Jane

#### **Lead Rotation of Remaining 2024 RMRC Meetings:**

June 6-LOC; July 6 STP leads in-person at COB; Aug 1-MoM, Sept 5-COB; Oct 5-CHF leads in person at LoC; Nov 7-LOC; Dec 5-STP

## **Appendix A—Bishop Notes: Activity in April 2024**

by Bishop Kae Madden

#### **Administration**

Clergy Ethics/Safety Training: follow up with those clergy who did not complete the training.  
Continuing Education check in with clergy pending.

#### **Advocacy/Presence/Consultation**

Scheduled to lead an Ecumenical Prayer Service at Contemplative Outreach on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Clergy support:**

Praying with many...

Clergy meetings and phone calls  
Weekly Friday gatherings

**Community support:**

**Pride: Denver Pride Apr 22/23.** Adams County Pride is June 8<sup>th</sup>. COB will have a booth. Thank you, Michael, for the regional information you provided.

**Liturgies/Sacraments**

**Presided** at CHF on April 28<sup>th</sup>

Scheduled tentatively for “**bishop visit**” to StP on July 20th

**Confirmation** COB on June 1<sup>st</sup>

**Formation**

Continuing discernment with candidates Mike and Christy and Jim.

**ECC**

**Regional Delegate meeting:** I thought the April delegate meeting went well. I pinch hit for this meeting, facilitated and compiled the notes. We need to identify a facilitator, notetaker and the agenda for the next meeting, perhaps during our June agenda. Next meeting in person on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30. A reminder to send in our delegate names and contact information to the House leadership.

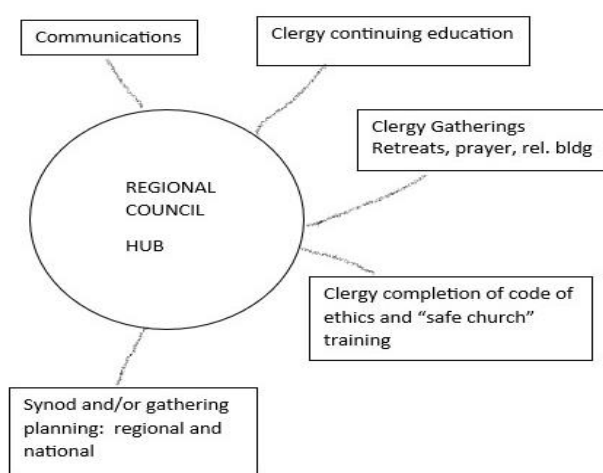
**Council of Bishops**

- Meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> .
- Process review for the MidAmerica division is in process. Not counting document review, we’ve spent about 4 hours together so far.

**Consulting with Pablo:** Phone calls and meetings to discuss the current climate and functioning of the ECC, perspectives.

Brainstorming model of administration of the region....

Calendar of Accountability
Communities report in monthly
January: Code of Ethics and Safe Church reporting. Even years: ECC synod delegates determined. Initiate delegate meetings.
February: Tithe commitments to region for new fiscal year and Council of Churches membership dues. PRIDE teams identified.
March: ECC special appeal?
April: Clergy continuing education forms turned in
July: Mary Magdalene Society special appeal
September: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January
October: <i>Regional synod</i> planning team identified – odd years. Plan for Chrism Mass and picnic? – even years.



## Appendix B—Ecumenical Engagement Report for RMRC 05 02 2024

submitted 4/30/2024 by Fr. Michael Nicosia

### KEY POINTS and ACTION ITEMS

**New mailing address for CCC: 2201 DEXTER STREET, DENVER, CO 80207**

**Religions For Peace USA is hosting a National Interfaith Prayer Service for the World  
Thursday, May 2, noon-1pm on Zoom or live on their Facebook page  
Zoom Registration is required but complementary (links on regional site/events)**

**Nancy Newton, Chair of Synod Music Team, and her husband are traveling to Colorado for a week-long stay in Loveland CO June 13-19. Will connect with various members of the Team; plans on attending Masses at LOC and MoM, and hopes to join us for the Synod delegates meeting at COB (let's put her on the agenda). Intent: learning about our musical traditions and preferences, and recruiting musicians.**

**Bring up Caffeinated Church Conference email**

### REGIONAL & NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

4/12 emailed PDF of Pride flier to Council.

Continued attendance at Inclusive Catholic's retreat on Liturgy As Art with Fr. Frank Q.

4/16 attended CCC hosted webinar on Anti-Semitism.

4/17 attended Jack's Memorial Mass.

4/19 Chancellor informed me that Synod approval not needed—goes through OPB lie a new community.  
Revised Constitution and Bylaws of Retired Clergy Assoc after input from regional delegates.

4/19 attended 25th Anniversary of Columbine Vigil at 1stBapt Church of Denver.

4/20 attended regional synod delegates meeting.

Presided at MoM 4/21

4/23 added the Region to the list of endorsing organizations for *Beloved by God* declaration.

4/23 participated in Inclusive Catholic's Coffee Chat.

4/24 participated in second Synod Liturgy Team Planning meeting; got clarification that Team is responsible for selection of readings to fit "passing on the torch" theme and work has begun.

4/28 attended MoM parishioner's Memorial Mass.

4/29 Participated in monthly ECC Chaplains meeting; Synod Liturgy Team asked about a healing service for Synod so chaplains began planning.

Promoted 5/2 National Day of Prayer remote event.

Participated in weekly regional pastor prayer/sharing.

Circulated advocacy and event updates, incl. CCC posts.

Posted on RMR website: Anti-Semitism presentation recording; Kae's statement on human dignity with various other responses (**under Pastoral Reflections tab**); announcement of ELCA RMR Synod's new bishop-elect and appreciations for Bishop Gonia

Submitted my personal response to *Dignitas Infinita* in May/June Extraordinary Catholic Magazine.

Coming up:

Will participate with Len & Kathleen in Jim Berry's school project, interviewing chaplains about Self-Care.  
Pax Christi reunion breakfast with Fr. Stan scheduled for 5/11.

**COLORADO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – Board Meeting April 24, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER/ GATHERING THOUGHTS/PRAYERS**

for denominations raising up new leadership: ECUSA electing new Presiding Bishop;  
ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Election (thanksgiving for Bp. Gonia);  
AME bishop election this summer.

for UMC meeting in General Convention to vote on LGBTQA+ inclusion.

for ECC holy convos in response to *Dignitas Infinita*, prep for our Synod and Retired Clergy Assoc.

UPDATES: MCC Ft. Collins closing, but Rev. Chace still chairing Ft. Collins Pride 6/29.

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE RECAP**

**ATTENDANCE–IN PERSON (7-8K) AND VIRTUAL (4K)**

**FINANCES**–raised \$32K of \$35K goal; labor costs at Red Rocks lower this year

**SURVEY RESULTS** (24 respondents) lots of new attendees, many from outside of Denver; word-of-mouth;  
right length; 41.7% Christian but don't attend church

**BILINGUAL** adaptation to be phased in over time, advised by those who have experience

**INTERFAITH ALLIANCE OF COLORADO SPEAKERS BUREAU** addressing Xian Nationalism–

NICOSIA signed up, but wants clear understanding of personal viewpoints vs communal/organizational positions. It would certainly give us a wider platform.

Questions:

As chair of the CCC, are there any restrictions on what I might write? Board wonders what it would say about the CCC if we didn't hold the same views about Xian Nationalism.

Is clarifying that my views may not represent those of the CCC be sufficient, or as a public figure do I always represent us. Question forwarded to Judicators.

Would what I write need to be vetted by the Board? Question forwarded to Judicators.

SENT BLUB about IA Speakers Bureau to Adrian to raise issue with Judicators.

**ADVOCACY UPDATE–SINAI BEBO**

going forward will work on weekly updates on bills for congregational publication

**ANTISEMITISM PROGRAM RECAP** turnout low, possibly reaction to Gaza

**ISLAMOPHOBIA PROGRAM UPDATE** info to come

**HOST A GAZA CONVERSATION???** possibly a panel discussion on line; researching

**MIGRANT ASSISTANCE–UPCOMING VIRTUAL MEETING WITH MAYOR JOHNSTON**

CCC webinar with Mayor walking through changes in outreach tba

**OFFICE MOVE UPDATE–WE HAVE A NEW HOME: 2201 DEXTER STREET, DENVER, CO 80207**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTIVITIES**

- DENVER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 MEETING RE NEW FAMILY SHELTER–4/12
- PREACHED AT CAMPBELL CHAPEL AME ON GENOCIDE AWARENESS–4/14
- LIVING WATER CHRISTIAN CENTER fire bombed office - attended rally/prayer vigil–4/17
- CU MEDICAL SCHOOL COMMUNITY FORUM FOR RESEARCHERS–4/26
- PANELIST FOR WHITE HOUSE FAITH AND DEMOCRACY EVENT–4/29
- PREACHING AT CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN ON MAY 12TH
- PREACHING AT SHORTER AME CHURCH ON MAY 19TH